

## Senate Resolution 101

By: Senators Pearson of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd, Rogers of the 21st, Schaefer of the 50th, Murphy of the 27th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the extraordinary career of Mr. Craig Lesser on the occasion  
2 of his retirement as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development; and  
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Craig Lesser has played an instrumental role in the growth and diversification  
5 of commerce in the State of Georgia through his inspirational leadership, diligent service, and  
6 conscientious management; and

7 WHEREAS, he is a graduate of the State University of New York College at Oneonta and the  
8 Advanced Management Program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Business; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser was appointed to the Georgia Department of Economic Development  
10 by Governor Sonny Perdue in 2004, whereupon he led efforts to recruit new businesses to  
11 Georgia from around the nation and internationally; and

12 WHEREAS, his leadership was instrumental to such landmark accomplishments as the  
13 founding of a KIA Motors Company assembly plant in LaGrange, Georgia, and the  
14 establishment of the Georgia Tourism Foundation, a partnership fostering tourism throughout  
15 the state; and

16 WHEREAS, he supervised a number of state programs for small business and entrepreneurs  
17 and facilitated efforts to market Georgia as an ideal destination spot for filmmakers, the music  
18 industry, and multimedia companies; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser has previously served as Vice President of Government and  
20 Regulatory Affairs for Georgia Power Company, President and CEO of Mirant New York, and  
21 Senior Vice President of External Affairs for Mirant Americas; and

1 WHEREAS, his present and previous affiliations include Board of Directors Chair for the  
2 Georgia Centers of Innovation, the Georgia Tourism Foundation, Georgia Chamber of  
3 Commerce, the OneGeorgia Authority, the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and the  
4 Tech High Foundation, and Emory University's Board of Visitors; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser leaves the Georgia Department of Economic Development to accept  
6 a critical leadership position for McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP, heading up the firm's newly  
7 established International Public Affairs practice; and

8 WHEREAS, McKenna Long & Aldridge is an international law firm of more than 400 lawyers  
9 and public policy advisors with offices in ten cities on two different continents; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser is highly esteemed by his colleagues for his professional commitment  
11 and magnanimous force of character; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is honored to have such a motivated and competent individual  
13 as one of its citizens.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body join  
15 in commending Mr. Craig Lesser for his outstanding career in public service, congratulating  
16 him on his new appointment, and extending to him the best of wishes for a golden tomorrow.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Craig Lesser.